

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **THE TOWN OF ELLETTSVILLE HONORS ALL VETERANS IN ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM**

ELLETTSVILLE, INDIANA (May 27, 2019): More than 100 people were in attendance as the Town of Ellettsville, Indiana held its annual Memorial Day program at 11:00 a.m. in Memorial Park, located just behind the Ellettsville Branch of the Monroe County Library. Ellettsville Town Marshal Jimmie Durnil, who also serves as the President of the Ellettsville Parks Board, served as Master of Ceremonies. The Opening Prayer and Benediction were offered by Ellettsville Police Chaplain Randy McCollum. The Ellettsville Chapter of the Boys Scouts of America, Troop #119 performed the Colors Ceremony, followed by the Wreath Laying Ceremony as presented by the Ellettsville Chapter of the Girls Scouts of America, Troop #3147.

Ellettsville's younger generations had a strong presence in this year's Memorial Day Program with a speech by local student Matthew Nasir about Memorial Remembrances and Special Musical Performances by Derrick Weidner and Sarah Cassidy. Derrick Weidner sang "God Bless the USA". Sarah Cassidy sang "Traveling Soldier". Taps was performed by dual trumpeters, Noah Diehl and Josh Grimes of the Edgewood Mustangs High School Band.

Marshal Durnil had the honor of introducing his oldest son, Master Trooper Todd Durnil, as the Keynote Speaker of this year's program. Master Trooper Todd Durnil has been with the Indiana State Police since 1990 and is currently assigned to the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division. Master Trooper Todd Durnil is a 1987 graduate of Edgewood High School who went on to serve as a Staff Sergeant in United States Air Force Reserve, stationed at Grissom Air Force Base from 1989-1993, and then served as a Sergeant in the United States Army Reserve, from 1993-1995, specializing in Counter Intelligence and Recruiting.

Master Trooper Durnil gave a thought-provoking and insightful speech that centered around the idea that we as Citizens of the United States Of America owe not only a debt of gratitude to those who served and died in the service of our country, but also that we owe it to them and to ourselves to strive each day to live our lives to the fullest in the pursuit of our dreams and aspirations. As Trooper Durnil put it, "To do otherwise would dishonor the sacrifice that they made so that we could pursue our dreams and live in the greatest country in the world."

Marshal Durnil announced that the Town of Ellettsville, Indiana plans to continue the tradition of the Memorial Day Program with next year's ceremony being held Monday, May 25th, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in Memorial Park. Please mark your calendars and join us in remembrance of those who gave their lives in the service of our country.





Master Trooper Todd Durnil giving the keynote speech.



Boy Scouts of America – Troop #119 during the program.